implementing the scheme w.e.f. 1.5.1997. All other States except Meghalaya, Punjab and Delhi are likely to start the scheme from 1st June, 1997.

The details of the TPDS have been given in the guidelines already laid on the Table of the House and duly issued to the States/UTs.

**Out of Course Questions in CBSE Papers**

*499. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of questions of various subjects were out of course in the question papers of 10th and 12th class examinations of CBSE, Delhi, held in February-March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the questions, subject-wise and class-wise, which were not prescribed in the NCERT books;

(c) the reasons for prescribing questions from out of syllabus for these examinations;

(d) the persons responsible for this lapse; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to prescribe questions only from the NCERT text books?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (e) Questions are set in Class X and XII examinations conducted by CBSE based on the syllabus drawn up by CBSE for these Classes. According to the CBSE none of the questions is outside the scope of syllabus. A few representations have been received regarding the level of difficulty of questions in the recently conducted examination. These are being considered in consultation with the experts.

**Short-Term Crop Loan to the Farmers of North-Eastern States**

*500. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of non-advancing of short-term crop loans to the farmers especially in the North-East States after the loan-waiving scheme of the then Janata Party Government;

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by Government for refinancing the farmers of backward State for increasing the crop production; and

(c) by when it is likely to be given to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Advancement of Crop Loans has not been stopped in the North-Eastern States after the implementation of ARDR Scheme. NABARD has continued to provide credit limits to Banks in North East Region.

(c) Does not arise.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

**Relaxation of Guidelines for Financial Assistance to the States Affected by Natural Calamities**

3649. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to relax the guidelines to provide financial assistance to the States affected by natural calamities, like cyclone, drought, flood, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The present pattern of providing financial assistance to the States for handling natural calamities is based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. No request has been received for any change in the pattern.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Scheme Relating to Balanced Use of Fertilizers by the Farmers in Bihar**

3650. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme on balanced and integrated use of fertilizers by the farmers in Bihar in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether training programmes have been conducted in the State for education of farmers about balanced use of fertilizers in their fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers, a Central assistance of Rs. 110.85 lakhs has been given to the State of Bihar, during 8th plan for the following:

(i) Strengthening of soil testing laboratories.

(ii) Demonstration of bio-composting.

(iii) Setting up of compost units.

(iv) Awards for use of organic sources of nutrient.

(c) and (d) Central assistance was given to Indian Institute of Soil Science (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) for conducting 32 demonstrations on farmers' field on balanced use of fertilizers during Rabi season of 1996-97 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.38 lakhs.

**Launching of Farm Research Projects in Collaboration with Israel**

3651. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Farm Research Projects are being launched by Government in collaboration with Israel;

(b) if so, whether these Indo-Israel joint projects are being launched in Delhi;

(c) if so, the total land allotted by the Government for this purpose; and

(d) the details of the work undertaken and the amount spent on the Research Project, so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) IARI has earmarked a site measuring 17 acres of land for this project.

(d) The work is yet to commence and no expenditure has been incurred so far.

**राष्ट्रीय गन्ना नीति बनाया जाना**

3652. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कोई गन्ना नीति बनाने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में विभिन्न गन्ना नीतियों का अनुसरण किया जा रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या किसानों के हित की रक्षा की जा रही है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो राष्ट्रीय गन्ना नीति बनाने में क्या बाधाएं है?